GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:176
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2006
NATIONAL RAINFED AREA AUTHORITY
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Suman Shri Ramji Lal

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has set up any National Rainfed Area Authority ;

(b) If so, the details thereof along with the task assigned to the said Authority ;

(c) Whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to productivity of land under artificial and rainfed irrigation ;

(d) If so, the details of rate of productivity of the various crops on both types of land, crop-wise; and

(e) : The funds allocated for augmentation of irrigation facilities on agricultural land dependent on rain?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 176 DUE FOR REPLY ON 4TH DECEMBER, 2006.

(a) : Yes, Sir.

(b) : NRAA has a two tier structure. The first tier is the Governing Board that will provide necessary leadership and appropriate coordination in implementation of programmes. The Governing Board will be chaired by the Union Agriculture Minister and co-chaired by the Union Rural Development Minister. The second tier would be the Executive Committee consisting of technical experts and representatives from stake holder Ministries. The Executive Committee would be headed by a full time CEO and will also have five full time technical experts.

An Order for setting up of NRAA, its constitution and mandate has been issued on 3rd November, 2006. A Copy of the Order is enclosed as Appendix-I.

(c) & (d): Agriculture production depends on factors like agro-ecological conditions, input supply, farm mechanization, quality of seed, soil type and crop period.These factors vary considerably from region to region in the country. Estimated effect of irrigation on yields of selected crops from district data base in similar agro-climatic regions both under rainfed and irrigated conditions has been made by CRIDA, ICAR which reveals significant response of crops to irrigation. The selected crop wise details are given in Appendix-II. However it is estimated that food grain production in the country accrues from approximately 142 million hectares of cultivated land. Of this, 40 percent is irrigated and accounts for 55 percent of production. The remaining 85 million hectares are rainfed and contribute 45 percent to total agriculture production.

(e): Total dependence of agriculture on rains can be minimized mainly through assured irrigation coverage and through improved water management practices. The revised outlay under irrigation sector for X Plan is Rs.109416.94 crores to create an irrigation potential of 10.5 million ha. Besides, following schemes are implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development to enhance soil and water conservation on watershed approach.

Ministry of Agriculture

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas

(NWDPRA)

2 . Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR)

3. Watershed Development Programme for Shifting Cultivation Areas

(WDPSCA)

4. Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS)

Ministry of Rural Development

1.Drought Prone Area Programme(DPAP)

2.Desert Development Programme (DDP)

3.Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) For the X Plan an outlay of Rs. 6400.00 Crores has been made for the above seven schemes for development of 214 lakh ha. In the first four years 159.30 lakh ha. at a cost of Rs. 4851.33 Crores has already been achieved.

APPENDIX-I

F.No. 9-2/2005-RFD-IV MINISTRY OF AGRIUCLTURE

(Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) Rainfed Farming Systems Division Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi, Dated the 3rd November ,2006 ORDER

In order to address the problems of rainfed areas and for sustainable development of such areas, the Government of India have decided to set up a National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA). The Authority will be a two-tier structure consisting of a Governing Board and the Executive Committee with the following composition :-

I Governing Board

1. Minister of Agriculture - Chairman

2. Minister of Rural Development - Co-chairman

3. Minister of Water Resources - Member

4. Minister of Environment & Forests - Member

5. Member, Agriculture, Planning Commission- Member
6. Secretary, Department of Agriculture & -- Member
Cooperation

7. Secretary, Department of Agriculture -- Member
Research & Education

8. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development- Member

9. Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources- - Member
10. Secretary, Ministry of Environment & -- Member
Forest

11. Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj - Member
12. Chairman, NABARD (National Bank for - Member
Agriculture & Rural Development)

13. One Farmer Representative/ Organization- Member

(To be nominated by Ministry of Agriculture)

14.Chief Executive Officer (National Rainfed - Member Secretary
Area Authority)

II. Executive Committee

1. Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority

2.Five Eminent Experts in the field of :-

(i) Water Management

(ii) Agriculture/Horticulture

(iii) Animal Husbandry & Fisheries.

(iv) Forestry

(v) Watershed Development

3. One representative each from Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

4. Advisor, Agriculture, Planning Commission
5. Director, Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Jodhpur
6. Director, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture

(CRIDA), Hyderabad

7. Subject Matter Specialists

2. The Chief Executive Officer of the National Rainfed Area Authority and the experts in the Executive Committee shall be appointed by the Governing Board on the advise of a Search Committee appointed by the Prime Minister.

3.The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall be an expert body to provide the much needed knowledge inputs regarding systematic up-gradation and management of country`s dryland and rainfed agriculture.

4.The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall be an Advisory, Policy Making and Monitoring Body charged with the role of examining guidelines in various existing schemes and in the formation of new schemes including all externally aided projects in the rainfed areas.

5.The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall specially focus on issues relating to landless and marginal farmers who constitute the large majority of inhabitants of rainfed areas.

6.The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall bring about convergence and

synergy among the numerous ongoing programmes and shall advise, guide and monitor their progress.

7.The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall cover all aspects of sustainable and holistic development of rainfed areas including appropriate farming and livelihood system approaches.

8.All Central Government Ministries and Departments shall be responsible for implementation of their line programmes in rainfed areas in consultation with the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA).

9.The mandate of the Authority shall be :

i)To prepare a perspective plan, outlining the national strategy and road map for holistic and sustainable development of rainfed farming areas.

ii)To evolve common guidelines for all schemes of different Ministries including Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) for development of Rainfed / Dry land Farming Systems.

iii)To coordinate and bring convergence within and among agricultural and wasteland development programmes being implemented in rainfed areas of the country.

iv)To identify rainfed areas in different States which need priority attention and prepare watershed development programmes for integrated natural resource management, in consultation with States, focusing on multi dimensional crop, livestock, horticulture, agri-pasture integrated systems and programmes for landless farming communities.

v)To identify gaps in input supply, credit availability, dissemination of appropriate technology and other requirements relevant for development of rainfed areas.

vi)To guide the implementing agencies on priority setting and monitor the specific interventions required.

vii)To develop plans/ programmes for capacity building of Centre / State Government functionaries in rainfed areas.

viii)To suggest modalities to strengthen National and State Level Institutions concerned with Rainfed/Dryland areas, and establish institutional linkages with prioritized watersheds.

ix)To monitor disbursement of rural credit/ insurance cover/ safety net programmes developed for rainfed areas.

x)To set the research agenda including a critical appraisal of on-going programmes and promote diffusion of required knowledge for integrated farming in rainfed areas to district and lower level authorities.

xi)To evaluate the effectiveness of completed watersheds and concurrent evaluation of on-going programmes.

10.The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall be located in and serviced by the Ministry of Agriculture.

11. The Ministries of Agriculture and of Rural Development will suitably redeploy staff for NRAA with no creation of posts other than the Chief Executive Officer and the full time experts of the Executive Committee. The staff would be drawn from the Ministries of Agriculture and of Rural Development through consultation between the Chief Executive Officer of NRAA and the Secretaries of these two Ministries.

12.The National Rainfed Area Authority may take additional personnel on contract or on deputation basis from elsewhere, when necessary.

13. The National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) shall have its own budget.The initial expenditures on establishment of NRAA shall be met under Watershed Development Council (WDC) Scheme of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

Sd/-
Prem Narain
Joint Secretary

Distribution:

1.Secretaries of all Central Ministries / Departments of Government of India.

2.Member Secretary, Planning Commission, Government of India

3.Shri K.L.Sharma, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

4.All Members of Governing Board/ Executive Committee of the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA).

5.Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi.

6.Chief Secretaries of all States / UTs.

7Agriculture Production Commissioners of all States / UTs

8.Secretary Agriculture / Soil Conservation / Watershed / Rural Development / Forest / Water Resources of all States/ UTs.

9.Vice Chancellors of all State Agriculture Universities.

10.All Divisional Heads, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.

11. Government of India Press, New Delhi with a request to publish this Order in the Gazette of India .

Sd/-
Prem Narain
Joint Secretary

APPENDIX-II

Estimated effect of irrigation on yields in similar agro-climatic regions of selected crops from district database based on a study conducted by CRIDA, ICAR

Crop	Estimated Yield (Kg./ha) with no irrigation	with irrigation	Per cent Response
Rice, Kharif	1236	1630	32
Rice, Rabi-	445	2907	552
Wheat	954	1554	63
Barley	1368	1658	21
Maize	1351	1690	25
Sorghum Kharif	405	706	74
Sorghum rabi	919	1299	41
Pearl millet	925	1164	26
Finger millet	1611	1868	16
Sesame	177	263	49
Castor	346	532	54
Linseed	400	429	7
Rapeseed/Mustard	653	796	22
Sunflower-	704	1032	47
Soya beans	603	605	0
Groundnut	955	1085	14
Cotton	254	306	21